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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 MCT-01 /091 W
----------086085 122000Z /73
P 121741Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2742
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH

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USEC
USOECD, ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINT IT
SUBJ: MASSIVE UNION SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION IN ROME MAY 10
INWAKE OF MORO MURDER

SUMMARY. LAMA, MACARIO AND BENVENUTO ADDRESSED ABOUT 100,000
UNDER THE RAIN AT CCU'S MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION MAY 10 IN PROTEST
AGAINST MORO'S MURDER AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTS AND IN DEFENSE
OF ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. LAMA TOOK THE LEAD IN CALLING
FOR CONTINUED FIRMNESS AGAINST THE RED BRIGADES AND SOLIDARITY
AMONG ITALY'S POLITICAL FORCES IN DEFENSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE.
END SUMMARY.

1. SOME 100,000 GATHERED FOR THE CCU RALLY IN THE RAIN IN PIAZZA
SAN GIOVANNI THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 10. THEY STOOD WITH THEIR
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UMBRELLAS AMIDST OF RED COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST AND WHITE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC BANNERS, TO MANIFEST. THEIR REPUGNANCE FOR RED BRIGADE
TERROR AND SUPPORT FOR ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC STATE. A MASSIVE
PHOTOGRAPH OF MORO AND THE SLOGAN "AGAINST TERRORISM AND SUBVERSIVE
VIOLENCE, FOR THE DEFENSE OF (OUR) DEMOCRACY AND INSITUTIONS"
COULD BE SEEN. THE CHRISTIANS CHANTED "MORO LIVES " AND "
MORO IS HERE,WITH ALL THE DC." ONE DMONSTRATOR CARRIED THE CUIOUS

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PLACARD "COMRADE MORO LIVES " . LOUDSPEAKERS BLARED THE SNGS
OF THE RESISTENCE. IN ADDITION TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE THREE
LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, THE CITY ADMINISTRATION LED BY COMMUNIST
MAYOR ARGAN, TURNED OUT IN FORCE. OFFICIAL OF OTHER MAJORITY
PARTIES AND OF A VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND DIVERSE
OTHER GROUPS WERE ALSO IN EVIDENCE.

2. THE SPEAKERS WERE THE CCU'S THREE SECRETARIAT GENERAL,
LUIGI MACARIO OF CISL, GIORGIO BENVENUTO OF UIL AND LUCIANO
LAMA OF CGIL, IN THAT ORDER. MACARIO COMPARED MOR TO NATI-
FASCIST MARTYR MATTEOTTI AND HIS MURDERED POLICE ESCORT TO THE
ROMANA SLAUGHTERED BY THE NAZIS IN THE ARDEATINE CAVES.
HE HAD WORDS OF ADMIRATION FOR MORO AND SYMPATH FOR HIS FAMILY.
HE PRAISED THE DC FOR MAINTAINING ITS EQUILIBRIUM IN THE BEST
CATHOLIC DEMORATIC TRADITION. HE APPEALED TO ALL CITIZENS
TO "MOBILIZE " TO ISOLATE THE RED BRIGADES AND HELP THE STATE
EMERGE FROM ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. HE CALLED FOR AN URGENT
MEETING OF GOVERNMENT, UNIONS AND POLITICAL FORCES. BENVENUTO
, WHILE CONDEMNING THE "MACABRE MURDEREERS" OF THE RED BRIGADES
SAID THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WORKING CLASS OR THE LEFT,
AND WARNED AGAINST USING THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS AN EXCUSE
TO STIFFLE DISSENT. HE OPPOSED THE DEATH PENALTY OR REPRESSIVE
LEGISLATION, CALLING INSTEAD FOR A MOE EFFICIENT POLICE AND
JUSTICE SYSTEM AND MORE HONEST AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT TO CATHC
AND IMPRISON THE TERORISTS AND ELIMINATE THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH
SPAWNED THEM, PARTICULARLY UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH AND IN THE
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SOUTH.

3. LAMA MADE THEMOST EFFECTIVE SPEECH AND DREW MOST OF THE APPLAUSE.
"THE COUNTRY HAS HELD ; THE ROOTS OF DEMOCRATIC COEXISTENCE
HAVE BECOME MORE ROBUST, "HE SAID . LAMA TERMED MOR " A
MODERATE (BUT) AND ENLIGHTENED MODERATE, ABLE TO SEIZE IMPORTANT
HISTORIC MOMENTS AND SEEK A MEETING POINT WITH OTHER DIVERSE FORCES,
A MAN WHO WILL LIVE IN THE REPUBLIC'S HISTORY FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE
AND CAPACITY TO CONVINCE,TO BRING TOGETHER, TO UNIFY THE COUNTRY"
AND FOR "TRYING TO WIDEN THE AREA OF POLITICAL DEMOCRACY".
HE CRITICIZED THE FAR LEFT "AUTONOMISTS AND THE OTHER
FEW WHO STILL SYMPATHIZER WITH THE RED BRIGADES " WHO ARE NOT
"ERRANT COMRADES "NUT RATHER "SADISTIC MURDEREERS "WITH THE
"COLD FEROCITY OF THE TORTURERS OF AUSCHWITZ AND BUCHENWALD.
TRADE UNION LEADERS MAY WELL JOIN POLITICIANS PLICEMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL SUPERTIVOSERS AND EXECUTIVES AS RED BRIGADE
TARGETS, HE WARNED. "THE RED BRIGADES CAN STILL DESTROY AND KILL
THEIR INHUMAN BARBARY CAN MAKE US SUFFER YET AGAIN, BUT THEY SHALL
NOT PREVAIL. "HE REBUTTED RED BRIGADE ARGUMENTS AND TRIED
TO REASSURE BENVENUTO AND OTHERS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILTIEIS
OF A WITCH HUNT IN THE WAKE OF MORO'S DEATH,, (MORE)

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.....DEATH.....
BY STATING THA , "THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ITALY
RATHER PRISONER FOR CRIMES COMMITTED IN VIOLATION OF DEMORATICE
LAWS. THERE WILL NEVER BE POLITICAL PRISONERS EXPRESSION OF
OPINIONS OR IDEOLOGIES, EVEN IF ABERRANT . (WE MUST ONLY
PUNISH BECAUSE WOE (BETIDE US IF WE WERE) TO PUNISH WHEN MURDERS
AND CRIMES FORESEEN BY THE LAWS ARE COMMITTED " HE JOINED
MACARIO IN CALLING FOR AN URGENT MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICAL FORCES. LIKE BOTH MACARIO AND BENVENUTO, LAMA URGED
ACTION IN FAVOR OF EMPLOYMENT, THE SOUTH, YOUTH AND WOMEN,.

4. ABOUT A THOUSAND STUDENTSAND STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF
" THE MOVEMENT "MOSTLY FROM "LOTTA CONTINUA "AND "DEMOCRAZIA
PROLETARIA "ASSEMBLED ON THE FRINGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION AFTER
POLICE PREVENTED THEM FROM GATHERING IN THE AJOINING SQUARE FOR
A PROHIBITED RALLY. THEY EXCHANGED SLONGAS AND OCCASIONAL FISTICUFFS
WITH THE CCU DEMONSTRAORS AND THE PCI AND CCU" SERVICES OF ORDER"
WHICH MOVED IN TO ISOLATE THEM." ALTHOUGH THEY PROCLAIMED
"UNITED "YES,BUT AGAINST THE DC,"MOST OF THE TENSION WAS
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BETWEEN THEM AND THE PCI. "STALIN,(RED BRIGADE LEADER) CURCIO AND TROMBADORI (A CURRENT PCI LEADER WHO HAPPEDED TO FIT THEIR RHYME) BRING NLY PAIN;" "STALIN AND CURCIO ARE NOT OUR, WHAT HAVE THOSE MONSTERS TO DO WITH US"; AND "AGAINST THE RED BRIGADE AND AGAINST THE STATE "WERE AMONG THEIR SLONGANS.

5. COMMENT. SINCE MORO'S KIDNAPPING, LAMA HAS BEEN PERHAPS THE MOST OUTSPOKEN ITALIAN PUBLIC FIGURE IN URGING ACTION AND FIRMNESS AGAINST THE RED BRIGADES. HE HAS THUS REINFORCED PCI SUPPORT FOR THE DC IN ITS TRAVAIL, HELPING THE PCI TO USE THE MORO TRAGEDY TO CONSOLIDATE ITS COOPERATION WITH THE DC AND FURTHER LEGITIMIZE ITSELF AS A FULL PARTNER IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. HE HAS ALSO REFLECTED THE PCI'S GREAT ANXIETY TO DENY ITS PATERNIRY OR MATERNITY FROM THESE KILLERS, WHO, AFTER ALL, CLAIM TO THE THE TRUE COMMUNISTS. IT IS PERHAPS WORTH RECORDING THAT, WHEN LAMA WENT TO DC HEADQUARTERS TO PAY HIS RESPECTS ON THE DAY MORO'S BODY WAS FOUND, HE WAS LOUDLY BOOED AND HIS CAR SURROUNDED BY A HOSTIL CROWD.GARDNER

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